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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
6 AT SEATTLE

7 CAROLE LaROCHE,
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9 Plaintiff,

10 v.
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12 JERRY R. KIMBALL, et al.,
13
14 Defendants.

15 C15-1003 TSZ

16 ORDER

17 THIS MATTER comes before the Court on defendant Jerry R. Kimball's motion
18 for summary judgment, docket no. 54. Having reviewed the motion, the declarations of
19 Jeffrey T. Kestle, docket no. 55, and Jerry Kimball, docket no. 56, plaintiff Carole
20 LaRoche's declaration, docket no. 79, plaintiff's supplemental response, docket no. 115,
21 and Kimball's reply, docket no. 127, the Court enters the following order.

22 **Discussion**

23 From March 2009 until February 2010, Kimball represented plaintiff in King
24 County Superior Court proceedings to dissolve plaintiff's marriage. Kimball Decl. at ¶ 3
25 (docket no. 56). Plaintiff was subsequently represented by Ted D. Billbe and, in October
26 2010, received a favorable judgment in the principal amount of \$568,000, plus attorney's
27 fees in the amount of \$70,000. See Order at 3 (docket no. 30, Case No. C13-1913 TSZ).

1 In May 2012, Kimball sued plaintiff to recover his unpaid legal fees. Kimball Decl. at
2 ¶ 6. Kimball and plaintiff reached a settlement, which was memorialized in a written
3 agreement, and the fee action was dismissed with prejudice. *Id.* at ¶¶ 7–8 & Exs. 6–7. In
4 executing the Settlement Agreement, plaintiff released Kimball from
5 all claims, demands, liabilities, obligations, damages, causes of action
6 or suits, administrative claims, or any other claim whether known or
7 unknown, and whether suspected or unsuspected, arising out of the
8 representation of Carole L. Hoffman in the Superior Court of the State of
9 Washington for King County in Case No. 09-3-02400-0 SEA, including in
any appeals therefrom

10 *Id.* at Ex. 6, ¶ II.A.

11 In this action, plaintiff asserts against Kimball claims of civil conspiracy,
12 conversion, and negligence. See Am. Compl. at §§ IV–VI (docket no. 17). All of these
13 claims “arise out of” Kimball’s representation of plaintiff in the dissolution proceedings.
14 See, e.g., Nat'l Sur. Corp. v. Immunex Corp., 162 Wn. App. 762, 773, 256 P.3d 439
15 (2011) (“arising out of” means “‘originating from,’ ‘having its origin in,’ ‘growing out
16 of,’ or ‘flowing from’”). These claims are therefore precluded by the valid and binding
17 release executed by plaintiff in June 2012. See Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co. v. Watson,
18 120 Wn.2d 178, 187-90, 840 P.2d 851 (1992).

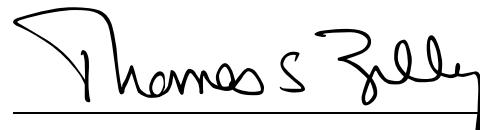
19 **Conclusion**

20 For the foregoing reasons, defendant Jerry R. Kimball’s motion for summary
judgment, docket no. 54, is GRANTED; no genuine dispute as to any material fact exists
21 and Kimball is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a).
22 Plaintiff’s claims against Kimball are DISMISSED with prejudice. Judgment will be
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1 entered in favor of Kimball and against plaintiff after the remaining claims in this matter
2 are resolved. After judgment is entered, Kimball may tax costs in the manner set forth in
3 Local Civil Rule 54(d), but the Court DECLINES to award attorney's fees under either
4 the provisions of the Settlement Agreement or 28 U.S.C. § 1927. Although plaintiff
5 might be said to have multiplied the proceedings "unreasonably and vexatiously," *id.*, the
6 Court is persuaded that an award of attorney's fees will do far more to fan the flames of
7 discord and increase the costs associated with this litigation than to deter plaintiff's
8 abusive practices. Plaintiff is, however, hereby ADVISED that, if she further pursues
9 litigation against Kimball, which is ultimately deemed frivolous, the Court might
10 reconsider its ruling and impose the requested sanctions. In light of the dismissal of
11 plaintiff's claims against Kimball, this case is hereby RECAPTIONED as Carole
12 LaRoche v. Catherine Wright Smith, et al. The Clerk is DIRECTED to send a copy of
13 this Order to all counsel of record and to plaintiff pro se.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 Dated this 15th day of March, 2016.

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19 Thomas S. Zilly
20 United States District Judge
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